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Acting Secretary for  
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**California Regional Water Quality Control Board**  
**Central Valley Region**  
Katherine Hart, Chair

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

1 August 2011

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Mr. Ben Gregerson  
Sierra Nevada Cheese Company  
6505 County Road 39  
Willows, CA 95988

**REVIEW OF MONITORING WELL ASSESSMENT REPORT, SIERRA NEVADA CHEESE COMPANY, ORDER NO. R5-2007-0043, GLENN COUNTY**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has reviewed the *Monitoring Well Assessment Report* (Report) submitted by Holdrege and Kull on behalf of Sierra Nevada Cheese Company on 9 June 2011. The Groundwater Quality Assessment Report was required as a Provision (Provision E.2.c.) in Board Order No. R5-2007-0043, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 4 May 2007. The Report included recommendations regarding existing monitoring wells and a work plan for installation of three new monitoring wells.

Central Valley Water Board staff concurs with the following recommendations in the Report:

- 1) To reduce the frequency of groundwater level measuring from monthly to quarterly until the new monitoring wells are installed;
- 2) Discontinue monitoring and sampling of well MW-3 and abandon the well;
- 3) Increase the height of the riser casing and install expansion caps on wells MW-1 and MW-4; and
- 4) Installation of proposed monitoring wells MW-5, MW-6, and MW-7.

The Central Valley Water Board does not agree with the recommendation to analyze groundwater samples for dissolved metals instead of total metals; metals should continue to be analyzed for total metals. The Report raised concerns regarding sediment in groundwater samples and the effect it may have on total metals concentrations. The sediment in the groundwater samples could be a result of well sampling method; please provide additional information regarding the groundwater well sampling methods (i.e. how the well is purged, volume purged, is the sample taken immediately after purging the well, etc.). In particular, the well may need to be purged several hours or a day prior to sample collection in order for the solids to settle out. If implementing good sampling technique does not result in reduced turbidity in the samples; additional discussion regarding laboratory analyses may be necessary.

Mr. Ben Gregerson  
Sierra Nevada Cheese Company

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**By 31 August 2011**, please submit to the Central Valley water Board a timeline for implementing the recommendations detailed in items 1 through 4 above and provide information regarding monitoring well sampling methods.

If you have any questions regarding the above comments, please contact me at (530) 224-3249 or at the letterhead address.



Jacqueline Matthews  
Environmental Scientist

JMM: knr

cc: Heidi Cummings, Holdredge and Kull, Chico  
Glenn County Environmental Health Department, Willows

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